We claim:

1. A method of treating a pathology in a mammal, said pathology being selected from the group consisting of synovitis, subchondral bone edema, and cartilage degradation, and said treatment comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an aminosugar.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said aminosugar is selected from the group consisting of N-acetylglucosamine, glucosamine, galactosamine, N-acetylgalactosamine, iminocyclitol, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said aminosugar is entrapped in a matrix.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein said matrix is selected from the group consisting of a particle, an implant, or a gel.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein said particle comprises a liposome, a nanosphere, a microsphere, or a suspension.

6. The method according to claim 4, wherein said implant comprises a polymer, a pump, or a device.

7. The method according to claim 4, wherein said gel comprises an *in situ* implant forming gel, a semi-solid gel, a hydrogel, or a thermo sensitive gel.

8. An injectable formulation for intra-articular treatment of a pathologies associated with a joint condition comprising an aminosugar which is entrapped by a matrix, wherein said matrix comprises a particle, an implant, or a gel.

9. A method of treating pathologies associated with a joint condition comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of N-acetylglucosamine as a controlled release formulation.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein N-acetylglucosamine is administered by intra-muscular injection or intra-articular injection.

11. The method according to claim 9, wherein N-acetylglucosamine is administered by subcutaneous injection or infusion.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein the pathologies associated with a joint condition is selected from the group consisting of synovitis, subchondral bone edema and cartilage degredation.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the pathologies is synovitis.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the pathologies is subchondral bone edema.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein the pathologies is cartilage degredation.

16. The method of claim 9 wherein the joint condition is not osteoarthritis.

17. The method of claim 9 wherein the joint condition is not rheumatoid arthritis.

18. A method of treating a joint condition comprising the steps of:

a. diagnosing a pathological marker associated with a joint condition; and

b. administering an aminosugar in a therapeutically effective formulation.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the pathological marker is selected from the group consisting of synovitis, subchondral bone edema and cartilage degredation.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the pathological marker is synovitis.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein the pathological marker is subchondral bone edema.

22. The method of claim 19 wherein the pathological marker is cartilage degredation.

23. The method of claim 18 wherein the joint condition is not osteoarthritis.

24. The method of claim 18 wherein the joint condition is not rheumatoid arthritis.

25. The method of claim 18 wherein the step of administering an aminosugar is performed by an administration route selected from the group consisting of intra-articular, intramuscular, infusion pump or subcutaneous.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the administration route is intra-articular.

27. The method of claim 18, wherein the aminosugar is selected from the group consisting of N-acetylglucosamine, glucosamine, galactosamine, N-acetylgalactosamine, iminocyclitol, combination therapies thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, and injectable formulations thereof.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein the aminosugar is N-acetylglucosamine.

29. The method of claim 27 wherein the injectable formulations thereof are selected from the group consisting of matrix particle, matrix gel and controlled release formulation.

30. The method of claim 27 wherein the combination therapy thereof combined the aminosugar with a compound selected from the group consisting of anti-inflammatory drugs and hexoaminidase inhibitors.

31. A method of preventing cartilage degradation comprising administering in mammals who have less severe said cartilage degradation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of N-acetylglucosamine as a controlled release formulation.

32. The method according to claim 31, wherein said N-acetylglucosamine is administered by intra-muscular or intra-articular injection.

33. The method according to claim 21, wherein said N-acetylglucosamine is administered by subcutaneous injection or infusion pump.